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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

STUDENT TRAINEE PROGRAM

The Central Intelligence Agency's Student Trainee Program, formerly known as the Cooperative Education Program, began in 1961 to provide undergraduate students an opportunity to gain practical work experience in combination with their academic pursuits.

Initially, only students majoring in engineering were recruited for the program. Today, however, students majoring not only in engineering but also in computer science, mathematics, and physics participate in the program. A few positions are also available for accounting and chemistry majors.

Student Trainees are selected only from academic institutions with established Co-Op programs; the Agency presently has arrangements with approximately 30 such schools. They alternate periods of study at school with periods of work with the Agency; it is expected that the trainee will spend from three to six periods on the job, depending on whether the school is on a quarter or semester system.

To allow sufficient time for Agency processing, Student Trainee applicants are interviewed from four to six months in advance of their availability. They must be United States citizens and must meet the same employment standards as permanent employees. Because student trainee applicants usually lack substantial work experience, considerable importance is placed on their interests, their suitability, and their academic performance as reflected by their grade point average.

The Student Trainees have an employee/employer relationship with the government. They receive many of the same benefits as permanent employees, and their salaries are competitive with those paid in the private sector. Following the appropriate orientation and training, the Trainees are given increasingly challenging assignments which are commensurate with their academic training and the ability to assume responsibility.

For further information, contact the Coordinator for Student Trainee Programs, Department A, Room 812, P.O. Box 1925, Washington, D.C. 20013, or your college Cooperative Education Office.

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